

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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TAGS: PINS, SEDU, ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES SCHOOL PROCLAMATION

SUMMARY: THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) ISSUED PROCLAMATION ON SEPT. 25 TO PROVIDE GREATER SUPERVISORY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS AT LOCAL LEVEL. EACH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL WILL HAVE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM PEASANTS' AND URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS. INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES WILL BE ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. STATED PMAC INTENTION IS TO PREVENT REACTIONARIES FROM DOMINATING SCHOOLS AND TO BRING THE SCHOOLS UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE MASSES.

END SUMMARY.

1. WEEKEND BEFORE SEPT. 28 OPENING OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PMAC ISSUED PROCLAMATION TO ALTER ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. EFFORT TO DECENTRALIZE PRESENT STRUCTURE ESTABLISHES LOCAL COMMITTEES TO SUPERVISE EACH SCHOOL. IT DOES NOT STIPULATE HOW PEASANT ASSOCIATION (GEBRE MAHEBER) OR URBAN DWELLERS (KEBELE) MEMBERS ARE TO BE CHOSEN, BUT STATES ONE TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE TO BE ELECTED BY FACULTY. HEAD OF SCHOOL AND ONE STUDENT AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD ALSO REPRESENTED ON EACH SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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2. DESPITE EFFORT TO DECENTRALIZE, DIRECTIVES FOR INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF EACH SCHOOL WILL BE BASED ON DETAILED GUIDELINES ISSUED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. THE PROCLAMATION WILL NOT APPLY TO HIGHER AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, SPECIALIZED GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OR FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND MISSION SCHOOLS.

3. PMAC STATED RATIONALE FOR PROCLAMATION IS TO MAKE SCHOOLS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE MASSES RATHER THAN TO FAR OFF, ISOLATED INSTITUTIONS, TO INTEGRATE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WITH THE MASSES TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE, AND TO PROVOKE CRITICISM FROM THE MASSES TO PREVENT REACTIONARY DOMINATION OF SCHOOLS. ACCOMPANYING PMAC STATMENT STRESSED NECESSITY FOR ELIMINATION OF WIDE GAP SEPARATING THE EDUCATED YOUNG FROM THE OPPRESSED MASSES AND FOR RETURNING TO THE PEOPLE BY RIGHT UNDER SOCIALIST PHULOSOPHY WHAT BELONGS TO THEM, IF MASSES CONTROL SCHOOLS, THEN CLOSE DISCIPLINE OF THEIR CHILDREN WILL FOLLOW.

COMMENT: PROCLAMATION IS EFFORT TO IMPLEMENT A BASIC TENET OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION, NAMELY DETERMAINED EFFORT AND SELF-RELIANCE TO IMPROVE STANDARD OF LIVING OF MASSES, WITH OBVIOUSLY HOPED FOR SIDE EFFECT THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS WILL BE LESSS OBSTREPEROUS THAN THEIR IMMEDIATE PREDECCESSORS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S GUIDING HAND WILL BE AS FAR REMOVED FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION AS PROCLAMATION WOULD HAVE ONE BELIEVE.

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